

Society of Mayflower Descendants In the State of Tennessee

CONSTITUTION (Amended 3 November 2007)

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this Society shall be the TENNESSEE SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS.

ARTICLE II: OBJECTS

The objects of this Society shall be:

Section 1: To perpetuate to remote posterity the memory of our Pilgrim Fathers. To maintain and defend the principle of civil and religious liberty as set forth in the Compact of The Mayflower, "For the glorie of God, and the advancements of the Christian faith, and honor of our countrie."

Section 2: To cherish and maintain the ideals and institutions of American freedom, and to oppose any theories or actions that threaten their continuity. To transmit the spirit, the purity of purpose and the steadfastness of will of the Pilgrim Fathers to those who shall come after us, and undiminished heritage of liberty and law.

Section 3: To promote the interests that are common to all the State Societies of Mayflower Descendants and to secure united effort to publish original matter in regard to the Pilgrims, together with existing data known only to antiquarians, and to authenticate, preserve and mark historical spots made memorable by Pilgrim association.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: The provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants which relate to regular, junior, and life memberships and eligibility therefore, and the provisions which relate to the transfer of memberships between State Societies, and as the same may hereafter be amended by the General Congress, are adopted as governing memberships in the Tennessee Society of Mayflower Descendants.

Section 2: Every application for membership shall be made on the Tennessee State Preliminary Application blank, issued by the State Historian, and shall bear the original autograph signature of the candidate, and be submitted with the proper application fees and requested documents at the time of application.

Section 3: The State Historian shall examine all applications for membership and shall require that proof of the applicant's lineage from a Mayflower ancestor is in accord with the rules and standards of the Historian General.

Section 4: Applicants may request a copy of any lineage paper in the office of the Historian General by filing the request plus the current fee of the Historian General's Office, through the State Historian.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

Section 1: The officers of this Society shall be Governor, a Deputy Governor, a Secretary, a Treasurer (or Secretary-Treasurer), an Historian, a Captain, an Elder, a Counselor, and a Surgeon.

Section 2: These officers, with the Chairs of Standing Committees, shall constitute the Board of Assistants.

Section 3: The term of office shall be three years and shall conform to the triennial term period of General Society Officers. No person shall be eligible to hold the office of Governor for more than two consecutive terms, but may serve multiple non-consecutive terms. Other officers may be nominated for more than two consecutive terms by the proposal of the nominating committee or nomination from the floor.

Section 4: A Nominating Committee shall be elected by the Board of Assistants. This committee shall present its report at the annual meeting in which elections take place. The membership shall have the right to offer other nominations from the floor.

Section 5: If any elected officer becomes unable for any reason to perform the duties of his/her office and such is determined to be the case by the Board of Assistants, or if any elected officer resigns, the Board of Assistants shall select a member who agrees to serve out the unexpired term period.

ARTICLE V: AMENDMENTS

Section 1: This Constitution may be amended at the annual meeting of the Society by the two-thirds affirmative vote of the members present.

Section 2: Amendments may be proposed by the Board of Assistants or by seven members. They must be submitted in writing, and properly documented by signature, either original, facsimile, or electronic, to the Secretary who shall send copies to the membership one month prior to the annual meeting at which they are to be considered.

Society of Mayflower Descendants In the State of Tennessee

BY-LAWS (Amended 18 April 2009)

ARTICLE I: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1: The State Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present at the annual meeting held in the year of each triennial meeting of the General Society.

ARTICLE II: COMMITTEES

Section 1: Chairs of the committees shall be appointed by the Governor.

ARTICLE III: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1: Duties of officers shall generally conform to those outlined for similar officers in the General Society.

Section 2: If the Historian so requests, the Board will allow the Historian to select a member in each Grand Division of the State of Tennessee to act as Assistant Historian to assist the Historian with official duties of the office.

ARTICLE IV: MANAGEMENT

Section 1: The management and control of the affairs of the Society, subject to such instruction as may be prescribed by the Society, shall be vested in the Board of Assistants. They shall approve the selection of members appointed to fill vacancies among the officers for the balance of the term.

Section 2: Unless standardized by the General Society, forms and documents issued by the State Society shall be designed and approved solely by the Board of Assistants, with the input of the general membership when deemed necessary. If the Board chooses, such State specific forms may be submitted to the General Society for additional opinion and acceptance.

Section 3: All expenditures of the Society must be approved by the Governor. All checks must have the signatures of both the Treasurer and Governor. Any request for reimbursement by the Tennessee Society must be submitted on the approved form to be provided by the Treasurer or the Governor.

Section 4: Any commitments by another officer or any member of the Society, on behalf of the Society, must have the approval of the Governor prior to being made. This includes, but is not limited to planning of meetings, acceptance and donation of any gifts, postings, and public notices.

ARTICLE V: MEETINGS

Section 1: There shall be at least one general meeting of the Society each year to be called by the Governor.

Section 2: The Board of Assistants shall meet at the call of the Governor as notified by the State Secretary. The place of the meeting should be somewhere reasonably close to those who attend. In lieu of meetings, matters requiring action by the Board members may be handled by standard mail, facsimile, or other electronic means, through the Secretary, who shall announce the Board action.

ARTICLE VI: FEES AND DUES

Section 1: The entrance fee to the Society shall be submitted with ALL State Preliminary Applications to the State Historian. The fee structure shall be set by the Board and approved by the general membership in a manner keeping with the governing documents of the State Society. This fee is not refundable. This fee shall not be required of members transferring from other State Societies; however, a transfer fee will be applied, as set forth by the Society. Some increases may be mandatory based on increases in fees by the

General Society. These increases would necessitate the increase of similar items at the State level, and not be subject to approval by the general membership.

Section 2: The annual dues may be increased or decreased by a majority vote of the membership at the annual meeting without the necessity of amending this section. Some increases may be mandatory based on increases in fees and per capita rates by the General Society. These increases would necessitate the increase of similar items at the State level, and not be subject to approval by the general membership.

Section 3: Each original lineage application and each supplemental lineage application furnished to the State Historian, shall be done on the Tennessee Preliminary Application form, provided by the State Historian, and accompanied by a check in the current amount set by the State Society. This fee is not refundable.

Section 4: Each original Final Application furnished to the State Historian for submission to the Historian General shall be accompanied by a check in the current amount of either the "Annual Dues" of members, or the current "Life Membership Dues" amount, if such is offered, as set forth by the State Society. Each Supplemental Final Application furnished to the State Historian for submission to the Historian General shall be accompanied by a check equal to the current "Annual Dues" amount.

ARTICLE VII: FISCAL YEAR

Section 1: The fiscal year of the Society shall end December 31 of each year.

ARTICLE VIII: QUORUM

Section 1: The Quorum at a regular meeting of the Society shall be those present after notice has been given.

ARTICLE IX: GENERAL SOCIETY LAWS

Section 1: All matters not specifically covered in these By-Laws shall be governed by the By-Laws of the General Society

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

Section 1: Amendments to these By-Laws may be made at the annual meeting of the Society by a two-thirds vote of the members present. Amendments may be proposed by the Board of Assistants or by seven members. They must be submitted in writing, and properly documented by signature, either original, facsimile, or electronic, to the Secretary who shall send copies to the membership one month prior to the annual meeting at which they are to be considered.

ARTICLE XI: COLONIES

Section 1: The formation of a Colony will be initiated, in letter form, by the petitioning members. It will include the geographic area to be covered and will be signed by all said members.

Section 2: The number of members required to form a Colony shall be determined periodically by the Board of Assistants of the State Society, but in no case shall be less than five (5).

Section 3: The funding for a Colony, if needed, shall be the responsibility of its members, and will not be assumed in whole or in part by the State Society.

Section 4: The title of "Governor", per se, may not be used to designate a Colony official. A descriptive title, such as Colony Governor or Colony Lieutenant Governor, may be used with the approval of the State Board of Assistants.

Section 5: Colonies shall be created under the authority of the State Society at any time.

Section 6: No Colony shall have the power to involve the State Society in any pecuniary or other obligation.